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Transcript of Public Hearing

Date: January 22, 2020

Case: Jones Lane Sidewalk Proposal; In Re:

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY

IN RE: :
PUBLIC HEARING FOR :
JONES LANE SIDEWALK PROPOSAL :

Recorded Hearing
Gaithersburg, Maryland
Wednesday, January 22, 2020
7:02 p.m.

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Transcript of Public Hearing
Conducted on January 22, 2020

1 Recorded Hearing held pursuant to
2 agreement, before Jamie Lorete, Notary Public of
3 the State of Maryland, at Jones Lane Elementary
4 School, 15110 Jones Lane, Gaithersburg, Maryland,
5 20878.

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 MR. ERENDRICH: Hello. I'm going to --
3 we're going to get started. If you still would
4 like to look at the exhibits you're welcome to.
5 Good evening. It is Wednesday, January 22nd,
6 2020, and the time is approximately 7:00 p.m. We
7 are assembled in the all-purpose room in the Jones
8 Lane Elementary School located at 15110 Jones
9 Lane, Darnestown, Maryland, 20878.

10 My name is Gary Erenrich. I'm the
11 designee at this hearing for the Montgomery County
12 Department of Transportation. Here with me this
13 evening to conduct the public hearing is Mr. Tim
14 Cupples, chief of the Division of Transportation
15 and Engineering for Montgomery County Department
16 of Transportation and Mr. Frank Kingsley, manager
17 of the Annual Sidewalk Program, the Division of
18 Transportation and Engineering, also of the
19 Montgomery County Department of Transportation.

20 Mr. Cupples will be providing the
21 information and details regarding the proposed
22 project. Tonight we are broadcasting this hearing
23 over the Internet. A recording will be made as
24 well. The recording will be available for viewing
25 by noon tomorrow. If you would like to view the

1 recording please contact Lori Main who is sitting
2 over there who is up front operating the webcam
3 this evening. Lori's contact information is
4 available at the sign-in desk as you entered the
5 room and will be repeated at the conclusion of the
6 hearing.

7 I hope everybody in attendance this
8 evening signed in when you entered the room and
9 noted on the sign-in sheet whether or not you wish
10 to present oral testimony. If you indicated that
11 you do not wish to speak but change your mind at
12 any time of the hearing there will be an
13 opportunity to speak at the end. Written comments
14 may be substituted -- I'm sorry, submitted as well
15 and will be considered with the same weight as
16 oral testimony. If you have not signed in yet
17 please do so before leaving this evening. Thank
18 you.

19 This hearing is being held pursuant to
20 Section 49-53 of the Montgomery County Code. The
21 purpose of a public hearing is to obtain testimony
22 regarding the potential project to assist in
23 determining if the project is in the best
24 interests of the public and whether or not it
25 should be authorized for construction in its

1 entirety or any portion thereof.

2 This forum allows for you to provide
3 testimony either in support for or in opposition
4 to the project. Your comments should be focused
5 entirely on the project which is the topic of the
6 discussion. All interested parties are entitled
7 to be heard at this hearing. However, this is not
8 a forum for dialogue, questions or answers or
9 cross-examination.

10 Please direct your remarks to the
11 specific project that is the subject of the
12 hearing. If comments stray into areas not related
13 to the project I will ask that you refocus your
14 comments to the subject project. Following the
15 conclusion of this public hearing a record will
16 remain open for, what do you think, three weeks,
17 two weeks, three weeks?

18 MR. CUPPLES: Three weeks is fine.

19 MR. ERENDRICH: Three weeks, okay. So
20 three weeks to allow any person who is unable to
21 attend the hearing an opportunity to have their
22 comments included into the public record and be
23 fully considered. I'll give you the date at the
24 end. The official closing date will be announced
25 at the end of the hearing.

1 Submissions may be faxed, E-mailed or
2 sent by regular mail and must be received or
3 postmarked by the close of the hearing record.
4 Written submissions will be considered with the
5 same weight as oral testimony. Submissions should
6 be sent to Ms. Main whose contact information is
7 at the sign-in table.

8 After the hearing is concluded and the
9 record is officially closed I, as the hearing
10 officer, will review and weigh all the information
11 submitted into the public record and make a
12 recommendation to the director of the department
13 of transportation, Mr. Chris Conklin, for his
14 final decision as to whether the project should be
15 shown -- that has been shown to be in the best
16 public interest and whether or not to authorize
17 the project as proposed or any portions thereof,
18 and now to discuss the sidewalk proposal for Jones
19 Lane I give you Mr. Tim Cupples.

20 MR. CUPPLES: Good evening, Mr.
21 Erenrich, Mr. Kingsley, and ladies and gentlemen.
22 The subject of this evening's public hearing is to
23 consider a proposal to construct a five-foot wide
24 concrete sidewalk with a variable zero- to
25 three-foot green space along the following

1 roadway: The west side of Jones Lane from
2 Maryland Route 28, Darnestown Road, to
3 Falconbridge Drive.

4 It's on the same side as the school,
5 along the east side of Jones Lane from
6 Lloydminster Drive to Falconbridge Drive just
7 opposite the school, and along the west side of
8 Jones Lane from Buck Lane to Doe Lane which is on
9 the same side as the school.

10 For your convenience we have provided a
11 few displays that aid in the visual description of
12 the project. They are display A, which is an
13 aerial map -- aerial project vicinity map in three
14 sections showing the location of the proposed
15 sidewalks relative to nearby pedestrian
16 attractions such as schools, parks, public
17 transportation, and the existing network of
18 sidewalks.

19 The proposed sidewalk is shown in red
20 and the existing sidewalks in blue. The total
21 length of the new sidewalk construction will be
22 approximately 5,750 total linear feet. Display B
23 is a typical section of the proposed sidewalks on
24 Jones Lane which has 70 feet of public right of
25 way, the roadway being 27 feet wide. Thus, there

1 is approximately 21 and a half feet of public
2 right of way available on either side of Jones
3 Lane.

4 I will now discuss the project
5 justification. Montgomery County DOT evaluates
6 requests for pedestrian facilities based on their
7 ability to serve a public use as well as their
8 ability to enhance public safety. The main goal
9 for installing a sidewalk is to remove pedestrians
10 from the path of vehicular traffic and to create a
11 separation between the pedestrian and the roadway.

12 New sidewalks on Jones Lane will remove
13 pedestrians as well as disabled persons from the
14 roadway. The sidewalk will establish safer access
15 to all areas of the community, including to this
16 school, churches, middle and high schools and
17 public transportation. Pedestrian safety will be
18 improved for the entire community.

19 I will now discuss tree removal and
20 replacement. The removal of two trees is
21 anticipated to facilitate the construction of this
22 entire project. Three trees will be planted to
23 replace each one tree removed. Placement of the
24 new trees is selected by the county's arborist.
25 The tree protection report for each proposed

1 roadway can be viewed in the record binder at the
2 sign-in table under Exhibit 5.

3 Copies of the tree protection report
4 were mailed to residents on January 8th, 2019. I
5 will now discuss costs and assessments. The
6 estimated cost for installing this entire project
7 is \$323,744.44. This includes construction,
8 inspection and administrative costs. Funding for
9 this project will be provided under the county's
10 Annual Sidewalk Program, CIP project number
11 0506747.

12 There are no properties which are
13 considered to be specially benefitted by the
14 proposed improvement. Therefore, no properties
15 are expected to be assessed. I will now review
16 the exhibits. As previously discussed, several
17 exhibits are incorporated into the public record
18 binder for your information and consideration.
19 The exhibits are located in the red binder located
20 on the sign-in table by Ms. Main's contact
21 information.

22 The exhibits include 1, Office of
23 Management and Budget Sidewalk Program minor
24 projects P506747; 2, project location maps; 3,
25 construction impacts; 4, cost estimates; 5,

1 arborists tree evaluation reports; 6, proof of
2 publication from the Washington Post and Go
3 Montgomery press release each advertising this
4 public hearing; 7, correspondence and comment
5 forms supporting the proposed sidewalks; 8,
6 correspondence and comment forms opposing the
7 proposed sidewalks; 9, written testimony provided
8 at the hearing -- if anyone has any testimony in
9 writing you may give it to Ms. Main -- 10, public
10 hearing sign-in sheet which we added following
11 this hearing; and 11, the public hearing
12 transcript which is also to be added following
13 this hearing.

14 Project related data and files have
15 been available for examination in the offices of
16 the Montgomery County DOT located on the fourth
17 floor of the public safety building, 100 Edison
18 Park Drive, Gaithersburg, Maryland, 20878. Files
19 will continue to be available to the public until
20 the record for this public hearing is officially
21 closed. These files are available for review by
22 contacting the Annual Sidewalk Program at
23 240-777-7270 and making an appointment.

24 If the proposed sidewalks are approved
25 MCDOT will utilize a work order contract currently

1 in place with the Division of Transportation and
2 Engineering to construct the sidewalk. If this
3 project is authorized we expect -- we anticipate
4 construction in the spring of 2020. The
5 construction is anticipated to take approximately
6 six weeks to complete if authorized as presented.

7 As previously stated, here with us this
8 evening is Mr. Frank Kingsley, manager of the
9 annual sidewalk program. We will be available
10 after the hearing to answer any questions
11 regarding the construction aspects of this
12 project. I will now turn things over back to Mr.
13 Erenrich.

14 MR. ERENRICH: Thank you, Mr. Cupples.
15 We will now hear comments from those in attendance
16 who wish to testify. Please clearly provide your
17 name and address for the record prior to beginning
18 your testimony. Okay. Let's see. Yes, I have
19 the names right here.

20 We're going to limit your testimony to
21 three minutes for speakers to announce their name
22 and to clearly address their name and address
23 clearly before testifying. So I have the names
24 and a lot of people have signed in but not as many
25 have decided to testify, and you can change your

1 position or change whether you want to testify or
2 not. At the end we'll give an opportunity for
3 others who would like to speak.

4 So first on the list to testify is a
5 David Bremer, 15208 Jones Lane. So if you'd come
6 -- how do you want to do that?

7 MR. CUPPLES: If you don't mind if you
8 can sit up front here, sit up front if you don't
9 mind.

10 MR. ERENRICH: It's a little
11 uncomfortable, but -- you can stand if you would
12 like as well.

13 MR. BREMER: I would prefer to stand if
14 that's all right.

15 MR. ERENRICH: Okay. That would be
16 perfectly fine. And name and address, please.

17 MR. BREMER: Sure. My name is David
18 Bremer. I'm at 15208 Jones Lane, and I'm trying
19 to edit my 15-minute speech down to three. I am
20 against the project. I have lived on Jones Lane
21 for 20 years. I am fortunate enough to have two
22 entrances onto Jones Lane. In fact, when we
23 looked at this house 20 years ago we would not
24 have moved here if we had to back onto Jones Lane.

25 THE REPORTER: Could you hold the mic

1 closer, please?

2 MR. BREMER: So in any event, I lived
3 here even before they built Jones Lane, and the
4 point is -- is that it went from nothing to what
5 it is today. Just as in if you build more roads
6 more cars will come, you build a sidewalk you'll
7 get more pedestrian traffic, bike traffic, or any
8 other form of traffic.

9 I have seen four people end up in
10 people's front yards here. I have almost been hit
11 almost every other week as I leave my driveway,
12 and I am pointing out onto Jones Lane and I happen
13 to be in a bad area. I'm three houses down, so
14 when people are coming around the curve that are
15 exceeding the speed limit anywhere from 10 to 20
16 miles an hour it is Russian roulette pulling out
17 onto Jones Lane.

18 How that affects me does not
19 necessarily affect the pedestrians. I understand
20 the purpose that some people believe sidewalks are
21 better, but in the case of Jones Lane if you
22 haven't looked at Jones Lane it is crowned,
23 there's a double yellow line and everything is
24 skewed towards the outside of the road, meaning
25 towards my front yard, the front yard on the

1 opposite side of the road.

2 If there's not going to be any curbs,
3 curbs are a deterrent to a sidewalk. I'm not
4 necessarily a fan of a curb, but curbs help
5 sidewalks and you are not going to have that here.
6 I can assure you based on how fast people drive,
7 how many times I have seen somebody with two tires
8 on the yellow lines, two tires completely over the
9 yellow lines, and I have even had one car all four
10 tires on my side of the road as I was coming down
11 the road, and all I did was stop to minimize the
12 impact.

13 Jones Lane has become a dangerous road.
14 I understand traffic calming is another part,
15 another conversation with another group of people
16 for another day, but if you build a sidewalk maybe
17 one side, I don't know, but if you build it on
18 both sides and you increase the pedestrian traffic
19 it is probably unfortunately a matter of time
20 when, not if something will happen.

21 As opposed to the few people who do
22 continue to walk there are a lot of bike riders,
23 there are a lot of joggers, but as far as I know
24 no one has ever been injured on Jones Lane. Thank
25 you. Thank you.

1 MR. CUPPLES: Thank you.

2 MR. ERENRICH: Thank you. Okay.

3 MR. BREMER: Thank you.

4 MR. ERENRICH: Next to testify.

5 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE SPEAKER: I'd like
6 to have that information. When you said cars
7 (inaudible). I was just curious if we have an
8 answer to that.

9 MR. ERENRICH: Well, you can -- I'm
10 sorry. We'll talk -- if you have questions we can
11 talk afterwards.

12 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE SPEAKER: Okay.

13 MR. ERENRICH: Thank you. Scott Flumer
14 (phonetic) or Flumer.

15 MR. FLUMER: I think I indicated I did
16 not want to testify.

17 MR. ERENRICH: Oh, testify, no, I'm
18 sorry. I see. Thank you. Naomi --

19 MS. YANT: Here.

20 MR. ERENRICH: -- Yant.

21 MS. YANT: Do you want me to walk up or
22 --

23 MR. ERENRICH: If you'd like.

24 MR. CUPPLES: The microphone will pick
25 you up there. You're close enough.

1 MS. YANT: Oh, this will be fine?

2 MR. CUPPLES: Yeah, that'll be fine.

3 MS. YANT: Okay. So my name is Naomi
4 Yant. I live at 15101 Falconbridge Terrace, and I
5 am here in support of the sidewalk, almost for
6 every reason that we just heard against it. There
7 are people almost every day walking on Jones Lane
8 in the morning and when it's dark out. I can't
9 tell you, I think people cross over the double
10 yellow line because they're so used to getting out
11 of the way for people walking on Jones Lane.

12 I have almost hit people on Jones Lane.
13 I've seen moms with strollers. I've seen joggers.
14 I've seen kids. I think it's really unsafe, so I
15 think a sidewalk would really add to the safety,
16 and we know it's gotten a lot bigger over the
17 years and people are walking and they're walking
18 to friends' houses and they're walking on Jones
19 Lane. It is a great connection road, so for that
20 reason I'm for it. For connecting to the other
21 neighborhoods I'm for it.

22 Also there's no public transportation
23 here but there is to 28, and I was just informed
24 earlier that certain kids are bussed to this from
25 far away and when -- their parents, if they don't

1 have cars they come here, they take the bus to 28
2 and walk up Jones Lane, have their meetings with
3 the teachers and then have their kids walk down
4 Jones Lane to get back on the bus to go home.

5 So for -- but that's another reason I
6 just found out today I would say absolutely it's a
7 must. I think it will add also to home values to
8 have this interconnectivity and increase
9 neighborhood feel. Thank you.

10 MR. ERENRICH: Thank you. Stephanie
11 Meadows.

12 MS. MEADOWS: Do I stay here?

13 MR. CUPPLES: Yeah, sure.

14 MS. MEADOWS: I was just -- I was
15 speaking to Naomi about -- to her point about --
16 oh, I should say my name and --

17 MR. CUPPLES: Yes, please.

18 MR. ERENRICH: Address, and address.

19 MS. MEADOWS: Stephanie Meadows, and I
20 live on 12522 Hialeah Way just down the street
21 where we don't have a sidewalk there, but that's
22 not the point. Back to what Naomi was saying, the
23 school itself is -- I would say a good 35 if not
24 more percent of the students that go to this
25 elementary school right now are bussed in from a

1 street called Westside Drive.

2 A lot of the people in that
3 neighborhood, and I can't speak any specific
4 statistics, but either have one car for the family
5 or zero. A lot of the children that go to this
6 school have parents that cannot access them
7 without taking two buses, like Naomi said exactly,
8 and then walking.

9 Like Naomi said, we have no public
10 transportation here on Jones Lane, so the parent
11 would have to -- let's for -- say that there is a
12 child that's sick. The parent would have to take
13 two buses, would have to get off on Jones Lane. I
14 would estimate it's about --

15 MS. YANT: 28.

16 MS. MEADOWS: I'm sorry, 28, thank you.
17 I would estimate it's about a mile walk to get to
18 the elementary school without any -- oh, I'm for
19 the sidewalk, forgive me -- without any sidewalks.
20 Then they'd have to get the child and then walk
21 another mile back with the child with no sidewalks
22 just to get onto a main road, 28, to then take the
23 buses back.

24 And our school with the wonderful
25 people who are in it have arranged with a company,

1 Lyft, to have these services where the people can
2 put in -- where people can put in a code and it
3 gets them money --

4 MS. YANT: It's not relevant.

5 MS. MEADOWS: Well, it is relevant
6 because I was speaking to the person in the front
7 office who is bilingual and she speaks Spanish,
8 and there are a lot of Spanish speaking people who
9 come from Westside Drive, and she has said every
10 person she has spoken to will not use this Lyft
11 service that we're trying to arrange for them so
12 that they don't have to take these buses, they
13 don't have to walk unsafely. She said she thinks
14 it's because they need to put a credit card down
15 and they don't want to be charged, or I don't know
16 if they have a credit card to put down.

17 But the fact of the matter is they need
18 this service. Unfortunately, they're not getting
19 the service with the Lyft for whatever reasons,
20 and they definitely need the sidewalk for the
21 safety of themselves and for their children, and
22 that's one of the -- just one of the reasons again
23 with the connectivity to the different
24 neighborhoods. We have a wonderful close-knit
25 community here, but there are not ways to connect

1 other than walking through back yards or front
2 yards.

3 So I think it's -- to the gentleman's
4 point who spoke first unfortunately I'm going to
5 say it hasn't possibly happened yet that someone
6 has been injured on Jones Lane, but we're just
7 waiting for it to happen. I'd like to be
8 proactive about it.

9 MR. ERENRICH: Okay.

10 MS. MEADOWS: And the fact of the
11 matter is one way or another, sidewalk or not,
12 it's a dangerous --

13 MR. ERENRICH: Okay.

14 MS. MEADOWS: -- small road.

15 MR. ERENRICH: Thank you very much.

16 MS. MEADOWS: Sure.

17 MR. ERENRICH: Next is Pete Geily.

18 MR. GEILY: Geily.

19 MR. ERENRICH: Thank you. Please state
20 your name and address for the record.

21 MR. GEILY: Do you want me to sit here
22 or --

23 MR. CUPPLES: Just somewhere close to
24 that microphone. I think she was close enough to
25 be heard, so --

1 MR. ERENRICH: Thank you.

2 MR. GEILY: Okay. Good evening. My
3 name is Pete Geily. I reside at 15231
4 Falconbridge Terrace. I've been a resident of the
5 Potomac Chase neighborhood since 2004. All my
6 kids went to Jones Lane, and this has been one
7 issue we've been in favor of for years.

8 It is a very dangerous road. My wife
9 and I or both of us will walk along Jones Lane
10 every day. It is the most dangerous part of our
11 walk. It's the only place in our walk that
12 doesn't have sidewalks, and so my main reason for
13 supporting is the safety reason and I think
14 someone is going to get hit.

15 It's a matter of when, not if. My
16 biggest worry in the dark hours, especially this
17 time of year, is hitting somebody at night.
18 Pedestrians many times wear dark clothes and you
19 come up on someone at a very close distance and
20 you have to swerve sometimes to avoid them, so it
21 is a concern.

22 The second reason I'm supporting this
23 project is connectivity. We need connections up
24 to the shopping centers. There are ways around
25 the back side of the neighborhood, but it takes

1 twice as long to get up there. There's also a
2 cut-through off of Norman if you go back by the
3 power lines that can get you up through Quince
4 Orchard High School, but again you have to walk
5 along Jones Lane without any sidewalk.

6 So if we have a sidewalk going up Jones
7 Lane you get that connectivity and I think it will
8 be a benefit to the neighborhood, not just Potomac
9 Chase but the larger neighborhood because people
10 do cycle around that loop which is about 3.5
11 miles. Thank you.

12 MR. ERENRICH: Okay. Thank you. The
13 next person to sign up is Meredith Milk.

14 MS. MILK: Oh, that's me. Hi. My name
15 is Meredith Milk. I live at 12707 Altice Court.
16 We just moved into this neighborhood about two
17 years ago, and one of the reasons that we were
18 drawn to the neighborhood was just the great
19 community aspect and all the wonderful things we
20 had heard about it. It wasn't something that we
21 really tuned into very specifically about the
22 sidewalks or not, but we actually are on the other
23 side of the Poplar Spring Church. Is that what
24 it's called?

25 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE SPEAKER: I think

1 that's right.

2 MS. MILK: Poplar something, the church
3 down -- the -- Poplar, the historic site, and we
4 have no sidewalks from that point to get to the
5 school. I have two young children. Do you
6 remember what happened last year when we rode our
7 bikes to the school and coming back?

8 CHILD SPEAKER: Yes.

9 MS. MILK: It was terrifying. It was
10 it actually terrifying because it's actually
11 pretty hilly on the other side kind of going down
12 towards where we are, so I actually agree with
13 everything that Mr. Bremer said, but with the
14 opposing viewpoint that I think it has to be
15 exponentially safer to have the sidewalks because
16 we have to cross at random times to sort of catch
17 the sidewalks when we can.

18 But, you know, we just can't even go
19 for a family walk without just kind of holding
20 onto our kids for dear life because cars speed
21 down that street and when you get to where the
22 kind of slow hills are you can't see anyone coming
23 or going, so I support the sidewalk.

24 MR. ERENRICH: Great. Thank you. You
25 can just leave it there. The last person on the

1 sign-up is Sara Tappen (phonetic).

2 MS. TAPPEN: Hi, everyone. My name is
3 Sara Tappen. I live at 14508 Jones Lane. I am
4 torn on the sidewalk project leaning towards
5 oppose. I have children who go to Jones Lane. It
6 would be great for my son to be able to bike to
7 his friends' houses.

8 My concern is where -- on Jones Lane I
9 am also lucky enough to have a double entrance
10 driveway. Most people don't and most people have
11 very small driveways on Jones Lane, so when you
12 have a family dinner, people over, a party,
13 there's -- parking would be on the grass, and if
14 the sidewalk gets placed there there's no room to
15 park for overflow parking.

16 My in-laws live right next door to me
17 on Jones Lane. They have a tiny driveway and they
18 have a big Superbowl party and have for a million
19 years, and I'm already thinking next year where
20 are people going to park, on Quail Run Drive? I
21 mean, they're 80 years old and their friends are
22 book club.

23 I just -- I do wonder if we've
24 considered the factors of people who live on Jones
25 Lane and whether that problem could be addressed

1 in some way, if a bike lane might suit the entire
2 neighborhood better. I'm also curious, I think it
3 was because the school is here, why the sidewalk
4 would go down Jones Lane on my side on the Jones
5 Lane side as opposed to the other side where the
6 yards are so much bigger.

7 My -- our front yard on this side of
8 Jones Lane is tiny, so the sidewalk going in,
9 literally I feel like it would take up about a
10 fourth of my grass in the front yard. So -- then
11 I look on the other side and they have much larger
12 front yards and wonder if it's ever been
13 considered running it on the other side where
14 there's less impact, environmentally less
15 landscaping to be removed.

16 We alone will have a major impact with
17 landscaping which again, you know, around my
18 mailbox will all be removed. I stand to lose a
19 couple of full and mature crape myrtles so that
20 again, you know, it's -- you know, I want what's
21 best for the neighborhood, but I do think what has
22 to be considered for people, residents on Jones
23 Lane needs to also be understood how that impacts
24 us.

25 And I know -- I don't think too many

1 people are here that live on Jones Lane, but it
2 definitely is going to be a major impact on us,
3 but I do think parking in my opinion is my biggest
4 concern, where that's going to -- you know, my
5 daughter who is in third grade has a birthday
6 party.

7 Are people going to park on my
8 neighbors' lawns across the street and dart across
9 Jones Lane, third graders running across the
10 street to get to a birthday party? Are my
11 neighbors going to get irritated that my overflow
12 guests are parking on their front yard and put up
13 orange stakes and then there will be nowhere?

14 I wish that that was, you know, brought
15 up. You know, if the speed on Jones Lane is a
16 problem, more stop signs, speed bumps, other
17 considerations for safety. Would that be a better
18 alternative than a sidewalk, I don't know, you
19 know, or a bike lane, has that been considered.
20 I've lived here for 14 years. There's not a ton
21 of traffic that goes down Jones Lane and it's a
22 significant amount of money.

23 I see mostly runners. I see some
24 bikers. I almost never see families. On occasion
25 on, you know, a Saturday or Sunday I see a family,

1 but there's not a ton that are going -- you know,
2 people go to the school, play on the playground,
3 but there's not a lot going on on 28 that people
4 are walking to unless they're going on a long run.

5 MR. ERENICH: Great.

6 MS. TAPPEN: Okay.

7 MR. ERENICH: Thank you.

8 MS. TAPPEN: All right. Thank you.

9 MR. ERENICH: And that's all of the
10 people on the sign-in sheet. If you -- now that
11 you've heard the -- I'm sorry -- now that you've
12 heard the testimony is there anybody else who did
13 not sign in as a speaker who wishes to speak?
14 Okay.

15 UNIDENTIFIED MALE SPEAKER: There are a
16 few names back here who came in late.

17 MR. ERENICH: Right. We can get them.

18 UNIDENTIFIED MALE SPEAKER: There are a
19 couple of us who would like to testify now that --

20 MR. ERENICH: Okay.

21 UNIDENTIFIED MALE SPEAKER: -- we know
22 what it's all about.

23 MR. ERENICH: Okay. Well, we'll do
24 the list first and then we'll make sure that
25 everybody that has an opportunity to speak can

1 speak. Actually, do any of the people that just
2 signed in want to speak? You didn't say that you
3 wanted to testify.

4 UNIDENTIFIED MALE SPEAKER: No.

5 MR. ERENRICH: Okay. Well, then why
6 don't we go to this lady, and give your name and
7 address and we'll go around. Everybody will have
8 an opportunity.

9 MS. WERNLY: Hi. My name is Jeanne
10 Wernly and I have lived in this community since
11 1987. My address is 12605 Timonium Terrace, and
12 for me putting a sidewalk on Jones Lane is like a
13 dream come true.

14 For 32 years I've been waiting for this
15 sidewalk. It would keep me safer as a driver so I
16 don't hit the joggers and the bikers. It would
17 keep me safer as a walker so I don't get hit, and
18 I would use this sidewalk a lot to connect out to
19 28 for transportation. I would use it for public
20 transportation and I would use it to walk to 28
21 and then walk to the library and it would be
22 awesome.

23 MR. ERENRICH: Right. Thank you. Can
24 you pass the mic to the gentleman? Again, please
25 state your name and address.

1 MR. SERENYI: My name is Geza Serenyi.
2 I live on 14512 High Meadow Way. I've lived in
3 the same house since 1991. What I have seen is
4 that new developments that have sprung up have
5 sidewalks, the old developments do not.

6 I'm a firm believer that we need to
7 make walking and pedestrian traffic safe and
8 available up and down all of this area because
9 there's so many people who will drive a tenth of a
10 mile just because there are no sidewalks
11 available. So please, please, please keep an eye,
12 understand that sidewalks are good, especially for
13 the youngsters going to school.

14 And I don't think that we need to worry
15 about pedestrian traffic at night, so if somebody
16 needs a parking space at night they might be able
17 to park without obstructing any pedestrians as
18 they go, but certainly during the day I see and
19 hear dog walkers, joggers, families. I'd like to
20 make the whole area good for dog walking. Thank
21 you.

22 MR. ERENICH: Good. Thank you.
23 Anybody else? This lady. Thank you.

24 MS. BENNETT: My name is Andrea
25 Bennett. I live at 15205 Jones Lane, and I

1 strongly support this measure to put in a
2 sidewalk. To all of my neighbors you've probably
3 seen me walking down Jones Lane with my Beagle, my
4 three year old and my newborn baby.

5 MR. ERENRICH: Wow.

6 MS. BENNETT: It's terrifying, but not
7 having a sidewalk will not keep us off the roads.
8 We're going to continue to enjoy the neighborhood
9 that we moved into, walking to the school, walking
10 to Aberdeen Park. We're just going to do it in a
11 more terrifying manner.

12 A sidewalk would greatly improve this.
13 It would connect throughout the neighborhood. It
14 would allow us to enjoy all of the areas around
15 us. I see no reason why a sidewalk would make the
16 street less safe than it already is, so I highly
17 support the measure.

18 MR. ERENRICH: Thank you. Anybody
19 else, the gentleman? If you want to come to the
20 front to speak.

21 MR. WEBSTER: Hi. I'm Bob Webster,
22 15209 Jones Lane, Andrea's neighbor. We have
23 lived in our house nearly 20 years. And I can
24 testify I do see Andrea and the babies and a
25 Beagle walking down the street. Twenty years ago

1 that was me with my little kids walking down the
2 street, you know, in the grass, in the mud,
3 through the snow helping them get to school.

4 Sidewalks equal pedestrian safety, and
5 that's just plain and simple. That's what this
6 issue seems to be about, is pedestrian safety.
7 Jones Lane is a bit of an anomaly. It's a country
8 road cutting -- you know, connecting suburban
9 developments, and it would make a lot of sense in
10 terms of pedestrian safety for sidewalks to
11 connect the neighborhood.

12 The concern I have, though, is the lack
13 of curbs and drainage issues. I've looked around
14 every since the proposal came out and I've tried
15 to find examples, similar examples where you have
16 a sidewalk fairly close to the road without curbs.
17 Now, curbs mean I will lose the ability to have
18 people park on, you know, the public right of way,
19 but that's not my land so I'm not concerned about
20 that.

21 Drainage, you know, I'd like to hear
22 more, I'd like to see more about what kind of
23 drainage issues there are being planned. As I
24 understand it now there's really no plans to
25 provide as it was explained to me curbs that

1 would flow into the culvert, that we have a
2 natural indentation on -- at least on our side of
3 Jones Lane that the water would continue to run
4 down.

5 So I'd like to hear more, I'd like to
6 see something incorporated into the plan that
7 addresses drainage issues, and if you could
8 consider placement of curbs on the street I think
9 that would be appreciated, at least by people who
10 tend to walk more on the street, and like I say
11 I'll gladly give up the ability to have people
12 park on my side of the road. Thank you.

13 MR. ERENRICH: Thank you. Is there
14 anybody else? Okay. Thank you. Come forward,
15 please.

16 MS. COYANA: Hi. My name is Sabrina
17 Coyana (phonetic). I live at 15305 Jones Lane.
18 I've been here for seven years. I have kids, one
19 in this school and one (unintelligible). I walk
20 to library, I walk to the gym. I walk to
21 (unintelligible). I don't walk on the street
22 because I don't want my shoes dirty and I don't
23 want them wet, and the grasses were uneven and
24 there was a few times I twist my ankle while
25 walking on the grass.

1 I do love my parking. I have it for my
2 house, but I think it's more important for me to
3 walk, and when I walk my kids to school for after
4 school activities I walk them around, but I know
5 when I'm not watching I know they walk on the
6 Jones Lane and I can't stop them doing it because
7 I tell them not to do it and they do it anyway
8 because they know that I don't see it.

9 Between Jones Lane Elementary School
10 and my house the curve that the gentleman talked
11 about is absolutely awful. I don't know what you
12 guys are going to do about it, but we definitely
13 need a speed bump and that was my question. The
14 way it ends up, how it's going to be connected to
15 cross on the other side of the sidewalk, because
16 this is where the curve starts.

17 So if I'm going to be walking on that
18 side how am I going to pass on this side without
19 getting killed right by the curve, and this is
20 where my house is and there come all the
21 drainage. There's never ending problem here,
22 never. This problem never goes away. It's huge
23 and the drainage is foot away and the water
24 doesn't go there for some reason, so the
25 Lloydminster and the Jones Lane puddle needs to go

1 with the project.

2 I mean, it's crazy because the puddle
3 is so big we can't walk close enough to the grass
4 to pass even if you want to go through the
5 neighborhood. We have to go literally to the
6 yellow line which is the middle of the road to go
7 around the puddle.

8 It's that bad, so if you guys could
9 explain to me how we going to cross from the one
10 side to another that would be very helpful as well
11 because my house is on the side where I don't get
12 a sidewalk anymore. Like my house is right here.
13 So I would love to have a sidewalk on my side, but
14 I'm not sure how are we going to get there. That
15 -- I would really like to hear that.

16 MR. ERENRICH: Okay.

17 MS. MAIN: Anyone else?

18 MS. KRAVITZ: Hi. My name is Stacy
19 Kravitz. I live at 12401 Triple Crown Road. I'm
20 in support of the sidewalk. While we live kind of
21 insulated in the neighborhood I would love for my
22 kids to be able to walk to friends' houses. We
23 have one kid here at Jones Lane, one kid at
24 Ridgeview, and one kid coming here next year, so I
25 have a long future left in the neighborhood.

1 I've been here for seven years. My
2 husband and I are both walkers, weave all around
3 the neighborhood, and it would be really great to
4 have a more safe path to walk on and I think it
5 would really help us connect to some of the other
6 neighborhoods on the other side of Jones Lane, and
7 it's not quite on the map, a little further up
8 towards Norman. It would be nice just for safer
9 walkability.

10 MR. ERENRICH: Thank you. One more
11 person. Okay.

12 MS. PEET: My name is Lisa Peet. I
13 live at 12712 War Admiral Way which is very close
14 to the intersection at Jones Lane, and I am in
15 support of the sidewalk. My son who is in middle
16 school utilizes the bus that gets dropped off at
17 Doe Lane and every day has to walk in the grassy
18 area to connect from Doe to our street.

19 And we, during the winter especially
20 and on rainy foggy mornings we always have that
21 conversation about walking very close to the fence
22 line, don't walk close to the street, keep your
23 head up because cars might not see you before you
24 see them. It's just a very dangerous stretch.

25 There's a slight hill that sometimes

1 the cars can't quite see over as they're coming
2 up from -- well, either from Carry Back going
3 towards like High Meadow, that stretch, or coming
4 from Doe to War Admiral and Carry Back, so my
5 husband and I are both very much in support of the
6 sidewalk.

7 We're walkers, my husband is a cyclist,
8 and he very much wants a sidewalk for not only
9 just pedestrian safety as a cyclist going around
10 pedestrians in Jones Lane, but also to be able to
11 provide some space for cars that aren't paying
12 attention, as he's cycling one way and cars are
13 coming to him he can bail out and hopefully stay
14 safe, so thank you.

15 MR. ERENRICH: Thank you. Is there --

16 MR. GEILY: Can I just add to my
17 comments based on some of the testimony quickly?
18 I don't think I'll take two minutes.

19 MR. ERENRICH: Sure, that's fine.
20 State your name and address again.

21 MR. GEILY: Hi. I'm Pete Geily, 15231
22 Falconbridge Terrace, and just to address some of
23 the concerns, and maybe you can address them in
24 design, is I hear there's a need for parking. I
25 hear there's a need to address drainage.

1 We have a 70-foot right of way. Why
2 not build some bald-outs (phonetic) where you can
3 put some parking in between the bald-outs, and
4 then you can also address the drainage with some
5 curb and gutter. You can tie those into the
6 neighborhood streets like Timonium and
7 Falconbridge, and going up there's a storm drain.

8 And I don't know what the requirements
9 would be but hopefully you could tie that in where
10 there are sidewalks and direct the water down to
11 the storm drains, but I think bald-outs to be a
12 good idea. The neighbors can keep parking on
13 Jones Lane, and then you can run the sidewalks
14 along the inside of those curbs.

15 MR. ERENRICH: Okay. Thank you.

16 MR. GEILY: Thank you.

17 MS. MEADOWS: Can I add -- may I add
18 one thing. Is that okay?

19 MR. ERENRICH: Sure.

20 MS. MEADOWS: I was speaking in regards
21 to, you know, the safety of the children who are
22 coming to the school and their parents, but I
23 didn't speak at all to my own experience. I'm
24 paying attention and I've still almost hit people.
25 All of us get packages daily, so somebody with a

1 UPS truck parks on the side of the road on Jones
2 Lane. You have to go around them.

3 Inevitably you are crossing over the
4 double yellow line or in the center and somebody
5 else who is walking or running that you do not see
6 is coming from the opposite direction, so even the
7 most vigilant driver runs a very large risk of
8 hitting somebody, and that's what I wanted to add.

9 MR. BREMER: I know a dangerous
10 precedent has been set here, but -- so we all want
11 to go home early but I promise this will be brief.
12 I understand the majority of the people here want
13 the sidewalk. Can all of you raise your hand who
14 do want the sidewalk? And how many of you live on
15 the west side of Jones Lane?

16 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE SPEAKER: I would
17 want to have a sidewalk on my side of the street.

18 MR. ERENRICH: It's not a forum for
19 question and answer.

20 MR. BREMER: The point is the west side
21 of Jones Lane has very little area. The other
22 side does have a lot of front yard area, much
23 more, meaning the parking situation, everyone is
24 (inaudible) on Jones Lane.

25 Delivery trucks, grounds crews not only

1 using least half the lane, the full lane, meaning
2 constantly what has to occur is you have to go
3 around parked vehicles which creates dangers for
4 also residents, but the point, on one side you
5 already have a sidewalk infrastructure so it makes
6 sense to tie it all in together and possibly
7 consider alternatives. Thank you.

8 MR. ERENRICH: Okay. Thank you.
9 That'll be it for -- thank you for your testimony.
10 Seeing that everybody who wishes to speak has had
11 an opportunity to do so, this concludes the oral
12 portion of testimony at this public hearing. We
13 will keep the record open for three weeks so until
14 Wednesday, February 12th.

15 Additional written testimony may be
16 submitted by fax, E-mail or regular mail and must
17 be received or postmarked by the close of this
18 hearing record. Submissions should be sent to
19 Lori Main, Annual Sidewalk Program, Division of
20 Transportation and Engineering, Montgomery County
21 DOT, 100 Edison Park Drive, 4th Floor,
22 Gaithersburg, Maryland, 20878.

23 The fax number is 240-777-7277, E-mail
24 is [dte.sidewalk@montgomerycountymd](mailto:dte.sidewalk@montgomerycountymd.gov) -- one word --
25 dot gov. Again, Lori's contact information is

1 available at the sign-in table. Hopefully it's
2 still there, and if not you can see her directly.
3 Thank you, and this public hearing is now
4 concluded.

5 (The Recorded Hearing was concluded at
6 7:47 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE OF COURT REPORTER

I, Jamie Lorete, the officer before whom the foregoing proceedings were taken, do hereby certify that said proceedings were electronically recorded by me; and that I am neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the parties to this case and have no interest, financial or otherwise, in its outcome.

Jamie Lorete

Jamie Lorete, Court Reporter

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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIBER

I, Bonnie K. Panek, do hereby certify that the foregoing transcript is a true and correct record of the recorded proceedings; that said proceedings were transcribed to the best of my ability from the audio recording and supporting information; and that I am neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the parties to this case and have no interest, financial or otherwise, in its outcome.

Bonnie K. Panek

BONNIE K. PANEK

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